

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Katsumi AOYAGI et al.  
Title: METHOD OF DETECTING HEPATITIS C VIRUS  
Appl. No.: 10/577,853  
International Filing Date: 10/28/2004  
371(c) Date: 10/17/07  
Examiner: Zachariah Lucas  
Art Unit: 1648  
Confirmation Number: 4864

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated January 12, 2010, concerning the above-referenced patent application. Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time and submits herewith payment of the fees appropriate to make this response timely.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: